

Poetry Analysis Worksheet

A step-by-step guide to reading and understanding poetry

1. **Title**

- If there is a title – does it define the subject matter of the poem's focus?

2. **First Reading**

- Read the poem silently to gain a first impression.
- What is the narrative in the poem (what is happening?)
- Make some notes on your first impressions.

3. **Re-Reading**

- Read the poem again – carefully, analytically and out loud.
- Take note of punctuation; notice images that stand out; listen to the rhyming pattern and the rhythm of the words

4. **Meaning**

- Identify the obvious meaning and then look for implied meaning (s). What do you think the poet is trying to say?

5. **Consolidation – Putting it all together**

- Read the poem again to consolidate your appreciation of its meaning.

6. **Theme/s**

- Identify the main theme of the poem

7. **Analysis**

- Are there poetic techniques such as: **similes; metaphors; alliteration; personification; onomatopoeia; assonance?**

- Other structures such as: **repetition; tenses; different voices; different themes in stanzas.**

- Use of vocabulary and language? (Find the meaning of words you are not familiar with)

- Listen to the tone of the poem. What is it? Does it change?

- What is the poet's message or intention in writing this poem?

8. **Interpretation**

- What issues are raised about society/relationships or life?

- Now use the above notes and information to write an analytical essay about the poem/s you have been analysing.

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